

# Oirata language

**Oirata** or **Woirata** (also known as **Maaro**) is a Timor–Alor–Pantar language spoken on the island of Kisar in Indonesia, and by some people in Ambon. *Ethnologue* reports an SIL figure of 1,200 speakers from 1987.<sup>[1]</sup> It is closely related to Fataluku, of which it is sometimes considered to be a dialect.

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## Phonology

### Vowels

Oirata has 5 vowels:<sup>[3]</sup>

	Front	Back
Close	i	u
Close-mid	e	o
Open	a	

### Consonants

Oirata has 13 consonants:<sup>[3]</sup>

Oirata	
Native to	Indonesia
Region	Maluku Islands (Kisar, Ambon)
Native speakers	(1,200 cited 1987) <sup>[1]</sup>
Language family	Trans–New Guinea ? <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>West Bomberai ?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Timor–Alor–Pantar<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Eastern Timor<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Oirata–Fataluku<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Oirata</b></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	oia
Glottolog	oira1263 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/oira1263) <sup>[2]</sup>

		<u>Bilabial</u>	<u>Labiodental</u>	<u>Alveolar</u>	<u>Palatal</u>	<u>Glottal</u>
<u>Stop</u>	<u>voiceless</u>	p		t		ʔ
	<u>voiced</u>			d		
<u>Fricative</u>	<u>voiceless</u>		f			h
	<u>voiced</u>		v			
<u>Nasal</u>		m		n		
<u>Approximant</u>		w		l	j	
<u>Trill</u>				r		

## References

1. Oirata (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/oia/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Oirata" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/oira1263>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Mandala, Halus; Meko Mbete, Aaron; Dhanawaty, Ni Made; Fernandez, Inyo Yos. "Phonological evolution of Oirata and its Genetic Relationship with Other Non-Austronesian languages in Timor-Leste" (<https://ojs.unud.ac.id/index.php/eol/article/view/3550>).

## External links

- Oirata Wordlist at the Austronesian Basic Vocabulary Database (<https://web.archive.org/web/20140102141031/http://language.psy.auckland.ac.nz/austronesian/language.php?id=295>)
- Woirata Maro (Oirata People) film (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t6rgw-17-EI>)

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